

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Rejection under 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Robison (U.S. Patent No. 3,866,946). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Discussion of Prior ArtRobinson

The Robison reference fails to disclose each and every element of Applicant's claimed invention. In particular, the Robison reference merely discloses a mechanism for the adjustment of the steering head angle (i.e., rake angle) of the front fork of a motorcycle. The mechanism comprises a steering spindle, two bearing means arranged at locations spaced longitudinally of the spindle. The bearing means mount the spindle in a motorcycle frame for angular rotation about a generally upright axis in the central longitudinal vertical plane of the motorcycle. There is a means coupling the front fork to the spindle and at least one of the bearing means includes adjustment means operable to vary the angular position of the axis in the vertical plane thereby to vary the steering head angle of the front fork (See Robison at col. 1, lines 1-47). The Robison reference also discloses that the steering head angle can be adjusted by reorientation of one or both of the bearing cups 29a and additional bearing cups may be provided

if further variations in the steering head angle are required. The bearing cups 29b can be assembled in either of two positions to effect adjustment of the steering head angle. An eccentric bearing cup 29c can be used for adjustment of the steering head angle (See Robison at col. 4, lines 25-54). The Robison reference is silent with respect to at least one clamp insert having an eccentric form insertable in each of said first fork and said second fork, said clamp insert configured to shift said offset.

In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention provides for a triple clamp including a body defining a first fork clamp opposite a second fork clamp along a common centerline, the body defining a center steering pivot, the center steering pivot including a pivot centerline. An offset is defined by the common centerline and the pivot centerline. At least one clamp insert has an eccentric form insertable in each of the first fork and the second fork, the clamp insert configured to shift the offset, as claimed in part in claim 1.

One of ordinary skill in the art clearly understands that the steering head angle is synonymous with fork rake angle. The Robison reference merely discloses a mechanism for the adjustment of the steering head angle (i.e., fork rake angle or steering rake angle). The steering head angle is completely distinct from a fork offset (or, simply, offset), as indicated in Applicant's specification. Applicant directs the Examiner to FIG 2 and paragraph 0008 of the specification. The clear explanation of the fork rake angle is contained therein. In complete contrast to the Robison reference, Applicant's claimed invention changes the fork offset by changing the position within the triple clamps. The change in the offset is the same

on both the top and bottom triple clamps. In altering the offset, the fork rake angle is not changed.

The Robison reference does not disclose or remotely suggest the claimed invention. The Robison reference discloses, a mechanism for the adjustment of the steering head angle (i.e., rake angle) of the front fork of a motorcycle. There is no mention or suggestion of a clamp body forming a first fork clamp and a second fork clamp, a center steering pivot formed in said clamp body between said first fork clamp and said second fork clamp, said center steering pivot defines a steering centerline, said first and second fork clamps define a fork centerline, an offset formed between said steering centerline and said fork centerline; and a clamp insert including an insert body defining an insert wall defining an insert inside diameter and an insert outside diameter, said clamp insert outside diameter configured to be insertable in each of said first fork clamp and said second fork clamp and configured to shift said offset, as claimed in part in claim 12. There is no method disclosed in the Robison reference remotely close to claim 18.

Since the Robison reference fails to disclose each and every claimed element of independent claims 1, 12, and 18, then the Robison reference fails to anticipate Applicant's claimed invention.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is therefore respectfully requested.

Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

The cited art of record and not relied upon does not render the present invention anticipated or obvious.

Conclusion

In view of the above, entry of the present amendment and reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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